

BOX NUMBER= USFS01104

76 _White Pine Blister Rust Control Projest Phased Out
1932-1987

Scanned: _____

Ended Dec 31, 1987

begin, 1932 - 1987

For Market Bulletin

WHITE PINE BLISTER RUST CONTROL PROJECT PHASED OUT

After 55 years of continuous operation, the white pine blister rust control project has been phased out. A new spot check disease survey, to continue to monitor disease incidence, will begin in its place. The program was initiated in 1932 in order to protect the approximately 225,000 acres of white pine timber on state and private land from this serious disease problem.

The white pine blister rust program initially began in 1932 as a Federal project in association with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture and the State Game, Fish and Forestry Commission. During the initial year of the project, the State appropriated \$100.00, while the Federal government allotted \$1,000.00 for the work in West Virginia. This program continued to operate under the direction of the U.S. Forest Service until 1965, when the WVDA took over the program. Since 1965, this program has operated solely under the direction of the WVDA.

After 55 years of continuous operation, it was felt that the desired results has been obtained. Thousands of acres of white pine timber had been protected from this dread disease. Most of the State and private white pine timber land had been placed in the no-further-work category. Given the budgetary constraints

that now exist, it was felt that the money spent for this program could be better spent for other projects. The white pine blister rust quarantine laws will remain in effect. This prevents the dissemination of gooseberries and currants, including any plants, cuttings, viable seed or any parts of these plants capable of propagation, into the 23 protected counties of the State. Those counties include:

Barbour	Fayette
Grant	Greenbrier
Hampshire	Hardy
Harrison	Marion
Mercer	Mineral
Monongalia	Monroe
Nicholas	Pendleton
Pocahontas	Preston
Raleigh	Randolph
Summers	Taylor
Tucker	Upshur
Webster	

The European black currant may not be moved intrastate to any destination in West Virginia.

One of the three full-time employees presently working on the project will retire at the end of 1987 and the other two are being transferred to other projects. The spot check survey will be conducted during the winter months and will only require a

small amount of time. White pine blister rust will never be eradicated, but it is felt that only a few stands of white pine timber would suffer serious losses from this disease if eradication work were discontinued. West Virginia joins numerous other states that have dropped this project. Maine is now the only state that still conducts a gooseberry and currant eradication program.